

Sermon-Based Questions
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Building a Life: Kingdom Come

Matthew 5:13-16, 7:24-29

Introduction:

1. Have you ever built or watched someone else build a castle or other structure in the sand? What was the response when the tide destroyed it?

Read Matthew 7:24-29

2. Describe a “storm” you are going through right now or have gone through and how you responded in any of these areas: physical (health) issues; relational challenges; mental or psychological problems such as depression, discouragement; or financial problems.

Read Matthew 5:13-16

3. What in your life would change if you truly chose to let your light shine before others, so that “they could see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven?” Be specific.

Read Colossians 4:5-6

4. How does Paul suggest we can be salt to those around us?

Application:

5. The Sermon on the Mount challenges us to look at life in a radically different way. How can you connect to Jesus in faith in an area or areas that seem impossible?

Lectio Divina: use Matthew 5:13-16, 7:24-29 [below]

1. Reading: Have someone from your group read the passage aloud.
2. Meditation: Spend an entire minute in complete silence, contemplating what was just read. Feel free to re-read the passage or jot down thoughts/highlight what stuck out to you.
3. Sharing: At the leader's signal, invite group members to share their insights for about 5 minutes.
4. Repeat: After the 5 minutes are over, repeat the process 2 more times. Listen/read like you haven't heard this passage before. If there are longer moments of silence, the leader can prompt discussion with the following questions:
 1. What did you hear and what seems important?
 2. What is the Holy Spirit impressing on you?
 3. What does it make you think of from your life?

Matthew 5:13-16, 7:24-29

13 "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. 14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." 28 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, 29 because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.